

440 357

23RD DAY'S Proceedings.

23.12.46 P.M.

At 1400 hrs. on 23 December, the Court re-assemble, pursuant to adjournment; present the same Members as at adjournment.

42ND WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION - Mr. G.A.V. HALL.

On being sworn is examined by the Prosecutor.

COURT: In respect to which charge is Mr. HALL in Court?  
He does not appear on this list of witnesses.

PROSECUTOR: It should be under the 9th charge. I gave notice after this trial started and this was complied before the second phase of the trial started.

- Q. Will you tell the Court your full name?  
A. George Albert Victor HALL.
- Q. You are an architect employed by the PWD HONG KONG?  
A. For the time being.
- Q. Your nationality is British and you were born in HONG KONG?  
A. Yes.
- Q. At present you reside at No. 1 RUSSELL Street, 2nd Floor HONG KONG?  
A. Yes.
- Q. I understand you were taken prisoner of war when the Japanese occupied the Colony in 1941?  
A. That is correct.
- Q. Will you tell the Court briefly where you were interned during your imprisonment?  
A. From STANLEY we were marched out to North Point refugee camp on 30 December, 1941. We stayed there until 23 January, 1942 when we were moved over to SHAM SHUI PO and I was there until the Japanese surrender in August last year.
- Q. Will you tell the Court what you were occupied in during the time you were at SHAM SHUI PO?  
A. I was sent out on practically all the working parties, at KAI TAK aerodrome, ABERDEEN, LAI MON Forts, CHIN WAN, digging tunnels in KOWLOON. In about August 1943, I think, I was asked to attend to the Camp Commandant's garden attached to the Camp Commandant's office.
- Q. Just where was that garden?  
A. It was on the south side of the main road near the camp office.
- Q. You remember that none of us know anything about SHAM SHUI PO so when you say it was near the camp office it given us no impression of the facts. Will you tell the Court where this garden was?  
A. As you enter the camp through the main gate on the left-hand side there used to be, or maybe still is, a hard tennis court. Just to the west of that is the camp office with a covered porch and in that place is the little garden where I used to try to grow - to make it into a flower garden.
- Q. You were then in the garden near the main gate? What buildings were thereabouts?  
A. On the north side of the road there is the ablution rooms and a little square building which used to be the store.

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Mr. HALL.

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- Q. What were in the stores?  
 A. They did not keep anything there.
- Q. What was behind the ablution rooms?  
 A. An empty space and to the north side of it was what we called bath house.
- Q. What was this bath house used for?  
 A. The Japanese military authorities built in there two Japanese-type hot baths, one for the officers and one for the men and can I add that these were seldom used because of the lack of firewood. There were two other rooms or rather Chinese tenement houses attached to these bath houses and they were used from time to time for storage of Red Cross parcels that were taken to camp before they were distributed.
- Q. About these Red Cross parcels that were stored in the building close to your garden ...  
 A. On the opposite side of the road.
- Q. What other things were in the store?  
 A. Towards the latter part of February 1945 the Canadian personal parcels were stored there as well.
- Q. What ~~xxx~~ have you to tell the Court about these personal parcels of the Canadians?  
 A. They were stored in these two adjacent houses for quite some time before they were distributed to the Canadian officers and men who were left behind in our camp and prior to their distribution TOKUNAGA, Lt. WADA who was Camp Commandant, and the camp Sgt. Major went through the parcels first and when they came out there were two, I believe Formosan, sentries who each had a parcel. They took it to TOKUNAGA's car and placed them in the car. The Camp Commandant and the Sgt. Major each had a smaller parcel under their own arms.
- Q. Who was TOKUNAGA?  
 A. Do you want me to point him out?
- Q. I want you to tell us who he was.  
 A. He was the Commander in Chief of all POW camps in HONG KONG.
- Q. Will you point him out?  
 A. The one sitting next to the gate of the dock.
- Q. Can you identify any of the other Accused?  
 A. The Interpreter TSUTADA and Dr. SAITO.
- Q. Which is which?  
 A. On my extreme left is TSUTADA and on the extreme right is SAITO.
- Q. How did you come to know that these parcels were removed and taken to Col. TOKUNAGA's car?  
 A. I saw it myself.
- Q. At what time was it his?  
 A. March 1945.
- Q. To your knowledge, were there Canadian troops elsewhere on the island than at SHAM SHUI PO?  
 A. No, I think they were all in SHAM SHUI PO at that time.

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Mr. HALL.

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- Q. Can you describe that car?  
 A. One of these khaki coloured sedans, a quite large car and the chauffeur who used to drive it in pre-war days was the mechanical driver, chauffeur of GILLMAN Motors. How I knew him was I used to be a client of GILLMAN Motors and often he used to attend to my car.
- Q. How would it be apparent that that was Col. TOKUNAGA's car?  
 A. Working in the garden there I have frequently seen him come in and the car parked under the porch and wait until he would finish whatever he was doing until he left.
- Q. Presuming you saw that car elsewhere, how could you have said it was Col. TOKUNAGA's car?  
 A. I would not know unless he was in himself.
- Q. Will you tell the Court what you know concerning the treatment of Chinese civilians by the POW camp guards? Please do not mention any occurrence that took place before 24 January 1942.  
 A. I cannot say whether it was before or after 24 January, but it was in the early days of the camp. I did not get there till 23rd January and in February or March there was one incident when a Japanese sentry shot a young woman off the west wall of the camp. She was picking shells at low tide. I was with another POW walking along there. We heard one shot fired and this woman falling down and another, point blank; there was a little boy with her and this boy ~~scampered~~ <sup>scampered</sup>. There was another incident of a Chinese of the labourer class brought into camp with his hands tied behind his back.
- Q. Who was he brought by?  
 A. Japanese sentries. He was taken out to what was called "Bamboo Pier", bayoneted, pushed over and then shot, in the water.
- Q. When was that?  
 A. That was in the early days when we had the Japanese sentries before the Formosans came.
- Q. Can you say what the treatment of Chinese civilians was like by camp guards during the years 1943 and 1944?  
 A. On numerous occasions we were formed up on the main road for our musters when we were counted and saw tied outside the camp against lamp post standards or telegraph standards either women or Chinese and quite often we saw them there again next morning.
- Q. Who was tied there, to your knowledge?  
 A. Since we did not actually see them being tied or untied it could have been the Japanese immediately outside, or the gendarmerie occupying SHAM SHUI PO police station, or quite possibly, the camp guards.
- Q. Will you tell the Court in regard to working parties at KAI TAK aerodrome what type of work did you do there?  
 A. We were told to demolish two or three very very old Chinese villages, level them all down, fill up hollows in the valleys and then we were engaged in cutting down a whole hill which, according to the Chinese, was a "sacred" hill, levelling it to form the extension to KAI TAK aerodrome.
- Q. What planes used this airport?  
 A. During the time of our internment it was Japanese planes.
- Q. What type of planes?  
 A. Mostly Japanese fighters.

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Mr. HALL.

- Q. What was there beside the fighters?  
 A. In the early days we did not see any others besides fighters.
- Q. In regard to ABERDEEN, what did you do there?  
 A. It was mostly in transporting aerial bombs up to 250 kilos from the godowns in BRICK HILL and nearby to the RCC wharf at ABERDEEN where they were all stacked waiting for transportation during the night.
- Q. What did you do at LAI CHI KOK?  
 A. After the bombing of LAI CHI KOK in September 1943, the next year, in 1944, big working parties were detailed there to clean up the debris and after we had cleaned up debris, there were one large and two small tanks undemolished and we had to fill up drums. I think they were 50 gallon drums.
- Q. What did you fill them with?  
 A. They were filling them with gasoline.
- Q. What did you do at CHIN WAN?  
 A. At the TEXCO installation opposite to CHIN WAN we did similar work filling drums with gasoline and loading them to lorries. On the last occasion we were there the Americans came over and bombed us; luckily they did not hit us.
- Q. What did you do at KHOMUNTIN?  
 A. We used to go there digging tunnels from 8 am to 8 pm in two shifts, making tunnels on the slope of the hill that goes up to the boys' school.
- Q. What do you have to say about the digging of tunnels?  
 A. Those tunnels in particular I built and we had one of the Jap NCOs in charge. They were very dangerous because it was not natural ground; it was the filling and we were just told to dig. They were very low. Whilst we were digging these tunnels from time to time there used to be collapses and they were propped up very unsatisfactorily. There were about 4 or 5 tunnel entrances and it was not indicated inside. One morning when we got out to relieve the Chinese working party the labourers that worked from 8 pm to 8 am, we found one tunnel entrance absolutely covered up with a slip that came right over it and we were told that some of the Chinese labourers were inside.
- Q. You say Chinese were caught, what about the POWs?  
 A. We did not work during the night; we only worked during the day-time. Even during the day-time sometimes there were caving-ins inside the tunnels, and we had to find our way out by the communicating tunnels to get out. We had to work in all weathers, whether it was raining or otherwise.
- Q. You say sometimes you had to find other ways out, is that correct?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. Why did you have to find your way out?  
 A. Working in those particular tunnels at that time it was during the rainy season. After the water trickles it loosens the soil inside and collapses all the tunnel entrances.
- Q. You had to find your way out because there was a collapse at the other end, is that right?  
 A. Yes.

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Mr. HALL.

- Q. What effect did these collapses have on the POWs? Were any of them injured in any way or were they all safe?
- A. As far as I know we did not suffer physical injuries but it was the mental thought of the liability of being entombed inside at any time.
- Q. When did these working parties cease?
- A. Our last working party was on 15 August, 1945?
- Q. Have you anything to say in respect of collective punishments?
- A. There was one day when the whole camp was taken out to the main playground directly after the morning muster at 8.30. We were not dismissed until 5.45 in the afternoon. During that time we found out later on that all our huts had been searched. We found all our things disarranged and we were kept in that ground for 9½ hours without anything to eat, in the hot, broiling sun. About the middle of April 1942 after the escape of 3 officers and one NCO in the HK Volunteers, the very next day all outside parcels were stopped, the canteen was stopped and our food rations cut down to a bare minimum. About the end of July, parcels were allowed for about 2 weeks and they were stopped again. We did not get any parcels from outside until the beginning of December, 1942. It was that summer of 1942 when the camp suffered most from malnutrition, beri-beri, pellagra and all those and there were so many deaths during August it was so depressing to the camp that we had to stop blowing the ~~Last~~ ~~Post~~. On every occasion after someone escaped from the camp we had our rations cut down and were mustered out on the playground for 2 or 3 hours. Once we were there from half past two until half past four in the morning in the rain, and again directly after our morning meal we were taken out for another 4½ hours.

CROSS EXAMINATION:

- Q. Was this bathroom for the POWs?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You said that some Red Cross parcels were stored in Chinese houses near the garden. Were these parcels stored by the Japanese?
- A. Yes, it was stored there for distribution to the POWs but whilst they were stored there, they were under the control of TOKUNAGA.
- Q. You said that Col. TOKUNAGA and Lt. WADA and a Sgt. Major examined these parcels. At that time was there somebody from the POW side present?
- A. No, we were watching outside; we were not allowed inside.
- Q. You mean that the POWs were watching from outside?
- A. Yes, in the grounds outside.
- Q. You said these parcels were for the Canadians, were they addressed personally to the Canadians?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You said that when the guards shot a Chinese girl picking shells, a small boy with her, you were walking nearby. Where were you walking at that time?
- A. Near the camp wall on the west side of the camp.
- Q. If the wall was the boundary of the camp you were ~~xxx~~ inside of the compound of the camp or outside?
- A. Inside, I mean the sea wall, not a brick one.

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Mr. HALL.

- Q. Was there not a boundary between the shore and the camp?  
 A. That is the sea wall.
- Q. Was it possible to go easily to the sea wall from the bounds of the camp?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. Was not there a sort of fence to prevent POWs from going to the shore?  
 A. There was a barbed wire fence.
- Q. Could you tell me where this Bamboo Pier was situated?  
 A. Southwest corner of the camp facing Stone Cutters Island.
- Q. Was the small Chinese girl hit by the bullet?  
 A. Yes.
- Q. Where was she hit, do you know?  
 A. The first shot got her in the head, the second <sup>acc</sup> in the chest.
- Q. Was there a gendarme office near the camp?  
 A. I believe there was one in SHAM SHUI PO Police Station.

Re-Examination declined.

QUESTIONED BY THE COURT:

- Q. As regards these Canadian personal parcels, did you see any of the parcels opened by their owners in the camp?  
 A. By the Canadian officers after they were distributed, yes.
- Q. What sort of goods were in these parcels?  
 A. Toilet goods, cigarettes, chocolates and underwear.
- Q. Did you ever hear or hear read out or mentioned a list of prohibited articles which were not allowed to be sent into the camp?  
 A. Not read out exactly but instances occurred where our friends sent parcels to us; there were things like garden tools; and at the beginning cigarettes were allowed but eventually they were stopped. Rubber goods and tools were crossed out of the parcels that were sent in to us.
- Q. You have described to the Court how you saw two Formosan sentries taking away parcels from that store. Can you give the Court any idea how much these parcels ~~xxxxx~~ contained, how large they were?  
 A. I would say about 2 feet long by about 1 ft. 6 ins. wide and high.
- Q. You have described Col. TOKUNAGA's car. Did it carry any mark or badge or emblem to show that it was any particular person's car?  
 A. It flew a flag on the bonnet, I think yellow.

(No more questions by the Defense or Prosecution <sup>acc</sup>)The Court goes into temporary recess at 11:30 <sup>acc</sup>

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WRITE IN BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS IN PENCIL

No. 2857 Rank SERGEANT Surname HALL  
Christian Names GEORGE ALBERT VICTOR Decorations  
Ship (R.N., U.S.N. or Merchant Navy) Unit & Div. HONGKONG VOLUNTEER DEFENCE CORPS.  
Squadron and Command (R.A.F., A.A.F.)  
Date of Birth 2ND FEBRUARY 1897 Date of Enlistment SEPT 1939.  
Private Address and Telephone No. "BELLAMERE" (Thoroughly Looled Since)  
CASTLE PEAK RD, NEW TERRITORIES, HONGKONG  
Place and Date of Original Capture STANLEY FORT, HONGKONG, 25TH DEC 1941  
(Aircrew R.A.F. to give place and date of a/c crash).

1. What camps, detachments or hospitals were you in? Give dates and names of the British Camp Leaders, Detachment (or Block) Leaders or, in the case of hospitals, the Senior British Medical Officers.

Camp or Hospital.	Dates.	Camp Leader.	Detachment or Block Leader (if any).
P.O.W. CAMP. NORTH POINT SHUN SIU PO HONGKONG	{ 30-12-41. To 23-1-42. 23-1-42 To 3-9-45	MAJOR BOOTHIE R.A.S.C.	

2. ESCAPES OR ATTEMPTED ESCAPES. (Additional paper will be supplied on request if required).

(a) Give full description and approx. date of each attempt you made to escape, showing how you left the camp, and from which camp each attempt was made. State whether there was an air-raid in progress at the time or not. If an escape was made from a train or vehicle the approx. speed and how it was guarded should be included.

(b) Were you physically fit when you made these attempts?

(c) Give Regimental particulars of anyone who accompanied you on each attempt.

What happened to them?

(d) Give briefly your experiences during periods of freedom.

(e) How were you recaptured and on what date?



HM/18

香港

收容所 Camp	香港 昭和 17 年 1 月 7 日	番 號 No.	香 3617
姓 名 Name	HALL, G.A.V. GEORGE ALBERT. VICTOR ホール, ジー、エイ、ヴィー、	生 年 月 日 Date of Birth	1897.2.2
國 籍 Nationality	英	所 屬 部 隊 Unit	No. 2857 H.K.V.D.C.
階 級 身 分 Rank	Sergeant. 軍曹	捕 獲 年 月 日 Date of Capture	昭 和 16 年 12 月 25 日
捕 獲 場 所 Place of Capture	香港島防禦陣地	母 名 Mother's Name	<del>Ruth</del>
父 名 Father's Name	<del>Sin Tak Fan</del>	職 業 Occupation	建築師 (特許)
本 籍 地 Place of Origin	Hong Kong.	通 報 先 Destination of Report	Mrs. G.A.V.Hall, Bellmere, Castle Peak Road, Near 10 Milestone, New Territories, Hong Kong.
		特 記 事 項 Remarks	



補修欄 Other Informations

昭和20年9月5日

英國事・引渡=完了